THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 14, NO. 4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994

DNR REPORTS . . .

by Glenn Therres

I am sure you have heard by now that the Bald Eagle may no longer be endangered. On June 30 the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the proposed change in status of the eagle from endangered to threatened in most of the country, including Maryland. Let me stress that this is a **proposed** change in status; its current status is still endangered. The final decision to downlist the Bald Eagle will not be made until some time next year, after comments have been received from the public.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chose to make their national announcement here in our state at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. As part of the ceremony, a rehabilitated eagle originally from Kent County was released back to the wild. We were honored that Maryland was chosen as the site of this historic announcement.

Maryland's Bald Eagle recovery is representative of this species' recovery nationally. In the mid-1970s the breeding population in the Lower 48 was estimated at 791 pairs. In Maryland we had 41 breeding pairs in 1977, the first year DNR began surveying our population. Since then, the eagle population has increased five-fold nationally and four-fold here in Maryland. This year 159 pairs of Bald Eagles nested in 18 Maryland counties, raising 192 young.

Maryland is part of the Chesapeake Bay Recovery Region, one of five such eagle recovery regions in the lower 48 states. Our region includes Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania. Last year 329 pairs (154 from Maryland) were known to have nested within the region. The recovery objective for downlisting the Bald Eagle to threatened in the Chesapeake Bay Region is 175-250 breeding pairs. We exceeded 175 pairs in 1988, and 250 pairs in 1991. Complete recovery will require a sustained breeding population of 400 pairs and permanent protection of sufficient habitat to support the population.

The proposed downlisting to threatened means that biologically the Bald Eagle population is no longer in eminent danger of extinction. Definitely good news! However, it does not mean that protection for the eagle can be relaxed if full recovery is to be realized.

The population increase is the result of a combination of factors. No doubt, the ban on the use of DDT in this country and its subsequent disappearance from the environment is a major reason for the eagle's increase. The availability of suitable habitat is the second key to recovery. A third key is the protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act and others, like the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Act in Maryland, which have gotten the eagle to where it is today.

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MOS Joins the Environmental Fund for Maryland

by Jim Eacker, EFM Executive Director

MOS has joined the Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM), a federation of 21 nonprofit environmental organizations that is dedicated to raising funds for its member organizations through workplace giving campaigns. Last year, in its first campaign season, EFM raised in excess of $300,000 for its members.

To date, EFM has been accepted into nine campaigns for the Fall representing more than 600,000 employees: the Combined Federal Campaigns of the National Capital Area, Central Maryland, Eastern Shore Area, Frederick County and St. Mary's County; the Maryland State Employees Charity Campaign; the Baltimore City Combined Charity Campaign; the Montgomery County Employees Charity Campaign; and on a limited basis, the Howard County Campaign.

EFM makes it convenient and easy for you to assist in the crucial effort to save Maryland's natural heritage. In most of the campaigns, employees may designate contributions, made by payroll deduction, to one or more of EFM's member organizations. Gifts designated to EFM itself will be divided equally among all of the member organizations. Contributions by payroll deduction in participating workplaces are strongly encouraged, but contributions also can be sent directly to EFM at P.O. Box 257, Woodstock, MD 21163-0257.

Last year during the campaign season (September through early December), EFM relied on a group of volunteers officially dubbed "Friends of EFM". These volunteers are employees in the workplaces where EFM was admitted to participate in the payroll deduction campaign. Friends spread the word about EFM in their workplaces—passing out brochures, hanging up posters, networking, or talking EFM up at the water cooler or coffee pot.

If you are an employee in a workplace where EFM will be participating in the campaign, we need you to spread our word! To become a Friend of EFM, or for more information, call either Bill Newman of MOS at (410) 837-4333 or Jim Eacker, EFM's Executive Director, at (410) 461-9199.

chapter chatter

by Jane Hill

Fledgling Cecil County Chapter Off to Flying Start — The Ornithological Society of Cecil County, organized just this past Spring as MOS' newest chapter, already has more than 100 members and a number of projects planned or underway. One of these projects is an ambitious undertaking with groups of high school and middle school students, to try to increase the population of nesting Prothonotary Warblers by putting up nest boxes along a trail in an area where these birds are known to breed. The Chapter also has plans to remove trash and rats from Battery Island, which is on the western edge of the Susquehanna Flats in Cecil County and hosts a breeding colony of Least Terns. The Chapter has already held a family picnic to introduce nonbirding relatives of Chapter members to other birders and to each other.

Four MOSers Chair Committees of the Maryland Chapter of Partners in Flight — Four MOS members have assumed leadership roles in the Maryland Chapter of Partners in Flight, an international effort to help stem the decline of neotropical migratory

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All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (410) 433-1058.

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the November/December 1994 issue are:

November-January Calendar Activities:
September 25, 1994

All Other Submissions:
October 1, 1994

Education Notes
by Linda Bystrak

On April 9th, the members of the MOS Education Committee were greeted by Spring flowers as they entered the arboretum surrounding Cylburn Mansion. Some of our members drove from as far away as Snow Hill and Frederick, Maryland. During the meeting, plans for the MOS "Outreach" program were discussed. The program will be presented to the Executive Board at the September meeting. One more Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17, between 1 & 4 PM, at the Patuxent Environmental Science Center. Committee members and other MOS members are welcome to attend.

The Patuxent Environmental Science Center is located on former Ft. Meade land which was recently transferred to Patuxent. It is a modern, one story building, containing about a 1,000 square feet of space. Most of it consists of a large meeting room capable of hosting a class of 25-30 students. The facility charges no rental fee and it is centrally located near NSA, off of Route 198, just east of the Baltimore Washington Parkway (Rt. 295). The facility is open 7 days a week, except holidays, and is operated by a small paid staff, and a lot of volunteers. Guided bird and nature walks are provided throughout the year. For more information, to volunteer, or to make arrangements to use the facility, call 410-674-3304.

Several ornithology courses will be offered this year in Maryland. Dr. Donald Messersmith will be teaching two courses through the USDA, in conjunction with the Audubon Naturalist Society. "Bird Life" will meet at Symons Hall on the College Park campus of the University of MD, on Tuesday nights between 7 & 9 PM, October 4 until November 22nd. "Ornithology", a more intensive, traditional course will be taught between 6:30 & 9:30 PM on Wednesday evenings, Jan. 18 to March 29th. Three Saturday field trips are included in both courses. There are no pre-requisites for the course, and each is worth 2 credits through the USDA Graduate School. For more information contact Kent Minichello at 202-265-7396.

At least one community college is offering Ornithology courses this Fall, through their Continuing Ed program. Cecil Community College is offering "Birds of Cecil County" (Wednesday evenings) and "Bird Identification Workshop" (Tuesday evenings). Call 410-392-3366 for more information. It would be great to see more ornithology courses offered in Maryland. If you know of any others, please let me know at 410-392-5621.

A FUNDAECO Update
by Larry Fry

MOS has now provided a total of $13,262 to the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO) in Guatemala to help preserve a portion of the Cerro San Gil rain forest. This total does not include matching grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which significantly swells the amount of money MOS had been able to generate for FUNDAECO.

A total of $10,162 was sent previously to Guatemala, and an additional $3,100 was raised at the 1994 Conference by the raffle, silent auction, and by individual donations of $316. An additional $359 was donated by individuals after the conference and this money will be sent later this year.

MOS Chapters or individual members who wish to contribute to FUNDAECO should send their checks payable to MOS to Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132.

DNR Reports . . .
(continued from page 1, column 1)

The federal Endangered Species Act is currently up for reauthorization by Congress. Attempts to weaken the existing act are underway. Without a strong act, endangered species protection efforts will be seriously hampered and recovery of the Bald Eagle and all other threatened and endangered species could be jeopardized.

Also, the perception that the Bald Eagle does not need the continued level of protection that has been proposed as a threatened species may hamper the ability to protect its habitat. The very next day, after the announcement was made at Blackwater, I received a call from a developer asking if he could now develop the lots within the protection zone of an active eagle's nest in the Critical Area. Two county planning and zoning offices have called so far asking how the downlisting will change eagle protection. The answer is that it cannot change if the eagle is to continue to recover. And in Maryland our protection efforts will not change. The same protection zones will be needed for a threatened eagle as are needed for an endangered eagle, since the biology of the species has not changed. What has changed is the perception that the bird does not need as much protection.

We will probably need to work even harder to insure adequate protection of eagle habitat. Some day we hope the Bald Eagle will be just another migratory bird, but we cannot relax in our efforts to get it there.

Chapter Chatter

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birds—a movement started in 1990 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Ellen Lawler, former president of the **Wicomico** Chapter of MOS, chairs the Education Committee of Maryland Partners in Flight; Gwen Brewer, former president of the **Allegany** Chapter of MOS, is acting chair of the Research Committee; and Kyle Rambo, of the **Jug Bay** Chapter of MOS, chairs the Management Committee. In addition, Glenn Therres, member of the **Anne Arundel** Chapter of MOS has agreed to chair the Steering Committee. The next meeting of Maryland Partners in Flight is tentatively set for November 5, 1994. For details about the meeting or to volunteer for one of the committees, or just to learn more about Maryland Partners in Flight, call Jim McCann or Glenn Therres, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (410) 827-8612.

New Bird List for Cylburn Mansion — Mark Pemburn, of the **Baltimore** Bird Club, is spearheading an effort involving several club members to produce a new bird checklist for the grounds of Cylburn Mansion, headquarters of MOS. The new checklist should be available this Fall.

Carroll County Birding Columnist — A second birding columnist for a local county newspaper has come to our attention. Last spring we told you about Gary Griffith, who writes a weekly column for the *Cecil Whig*. For more than 4 years now, Sue Yingling, of the **Carroll** County Chapter, has been doing the same for the *Carroll County Times*. Her column, "Bird's Eye View", appears on the Outdoors page of the Sports section each Friday. She devoted her June 3, 1994, column to her impressions of the 1994 MOS Annual Conference, held in May.

Autumn Bird Count Set in Howard County — The **Howard** County Chapter will conduct its first autumn bird count on September 17, 1994—the third Saturday of the month. For further information or to volunteer, call one of the coordinators, Mike McClure (410) 531-2780, or Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417.

Chapter Newsletter Features Seasonal Summaries of Bird Sightings — Four times a year, the **Howard** County Chapter publishes seasonal summaries of county bird sightings in its newsletter. The material is collected and compiled by Joanne Solem and is based on sightings by about two dozen birders. The summaries include data on earliest and latest sightings, high numbers of birds, unusual birds, and new breeding records.

Three-time Winner of Conference Pin Competition — Connie Bockstie, of the **Howard** County Chapter, won the competition for designing the pin for the 1994 MOS Annual Conference. This was the third year Connie has won the contest.

MOS Book Donations

by Joy Wheeler

For many months the Library Committee has been receiving almost irresistible advertising about two new publications: **The Birds of America: Life Histories for the 21st Century**, and **Handbook of the Birds of the World**. Both are many-volume works being published over a period of years and expensive enough to make the average collector think carefully before adding them to his or her own personal library of books about birds. As the deadline for a discounted prepublication price approached, the Committee began to do some positive thinking. If the Board of Directors would agree to buy them, where could the publications be housed where they could be accessible to MOS members throughout the state? Cylburn would not be open on weekends and at night. Irish Grove or Carey Run are in the two most outlying corners of the state.

Bill Newman, MOS president and, in real life, the Director of the Langsdale Library of the University Maryland at Baltimore, suggested a university library where the study of ornithology is emphasized. Two universities were contacted, but the committee felt that accessibility at each would also be limited. We then considered Enoch Pratt Free Library. With its inter-library loan system, the volumes would be available to the large metropolitan readership as well as to readers throughout the state. When we visited Pratt with our offer, Stephanie DeAbreu of the Development Office and Milo Ruffin of the Inter-Library Loan Office assured us that this would be the case and that they would be most grateful for our gift of such significant publications.

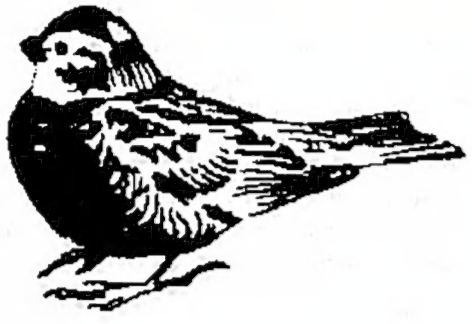
So, at the December 11 meeting of the Board of Directors, when the project was introduced by the Committee and discussed by the members present, the vote was unanimous in favor of spending $1,875 to acquire the **Life Histories** and to house them at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. At that time, a vote for acquiring the **Handbook** was not taken, though it was discussed and understood that it would be voted on at a later meeting, since the pre-publishing price deadline had already passed.

There is another chapter to our story. Mark Johnson, representing Harford County at the Board of Directors meeting, told us afterwards that he was working on one of the species accounts for **Life Histories**. He was aware of a 50% discount for authors and very generously offered his discount to the MOS. As it happened, he was not able to arrange this, but the idea took hold.

A familiar name was listed as author of species account #3: Brooke Meanley. Mr. Meanley has had a long, active life as an ornithologist and author of many books about birds, marsh birds in particular. I'm sure all of us have read his monograph on the Swainson's Warbler. He has been a longtime member of the MOS and has contributed many articles to **Maryland Birdlife**. Mr. Meanley listened to our request very attentively and immediately agreed to purchase the series in his name and to transfer the ownership to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in our name. As a matter of fact, on the very next banking day he sent the check for $938.50 to the publisher. Our treasurer, Larry Fry, then reimbursed him promptly. This is a significant reduction from the $1,875 it would have cost and to show our appreciation, Mr. Meanley's name will go on the MOS bookplate which will be affixed to each serial holder. (Bill Newman assured me that this was indeed ethical and an occasional practice among authors.) We are most grateful to the American Ornithologists Union and the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, publishers of the **Life Histories**, for their cooperation in this matter.

Early in January 1994 the already completed parts of the series began to arrive. So far, there are 80 of them held in 2 sturdy holders. There will be 18 holders altogether with over 700 species accounts. Bill Newman, and I as Chair of the Library Committee, met Pratt's new Director and had our pictures taken with her and the new acquisitions. The books are available to you in the Business, Science and Technology Department of Pratt Central, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, or through a request to your local library.

We present these books to the people of Maryland with the hope that continued and expanding knowledge of birds will benefit the health of the bird populations in Maryland and around the world.



The Conservation Corner

by Rich Dolesh

Partners in Flight Takes Off

A promising partnership for the conservation of Neotropical Migrant Land Birds (NML) has begun to take shape in Maryland under the auspices of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, called Maryland Partners in Flight (MD PIF). MD PIF is an outgrowth of the Partners in Flight (PIF), an international conservation effort for the preservation and protection of Neotropical Migrant Birds.

Many MOS members are actively participating in MD PIF, but for those who have not been involved, here is a summary of what has occurred to date.

MD PIF is nearing completion of its first year of organization. The mission of MD PIF states that it is "a partnership of organizations and individuals committed to the conservation of Neotropical Migratory Land Birds and their habitats through monitoring, management, research, and education."

To date, five committees have been formed including the Steering Committee. These committees and their chairpersons are as follow:

Research Committee — Dr. Gwen Brewer, Frostburg State University
Education Committee — Dr. Ellen Lawler, Salisbury State University
Monitoring Committee — Mr. Jim Cann, Non-game and Urban Wildlife Program, MD DNR
Management Committee — Mr. Kyle Rambo, United States Navy, Patuxent Naval Air Station
Steering Committee — Mr. Glenn Therres, Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program, MD DNR

The initial goal of MD PIF is to develop a strategic plan of action to implement the mission and goals of the organization; to explore conservation issues in Maryland concerning Neotropical Migratory Land Birds; and to summarize the efforts that MD PIF will undertake in monitoring, research, land management, education, and communications.

Each of the committees is in the process of developing and implementing a schedule that will contribute to the completion of the state's strategic plan. Highlights of the individual implementation plans for each committee are:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Develop educational tools to increase public awareness of NML's and related conservation issues, and motivate the public to address those issues.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information related to MD PIF and NML educational opportunities for all interested parties.
- Provide support in the development, format, and facilitation of educational activities for land managers, researchers, individuals and groups involved in monitoring.

MONITORING COMMITTEE

- Develop and maintain a core database consisting of the MD NML list, concern scores, habitat associations, species status, and information on population trends and distribution.
- Develop and promote data management standards and procedures for NML monitoring activities in Maryland.
- Disseminate core data base and other monitoring information to all interested parties.
- Determine which species or species groups are inadequately monitored at the state level and within each physiographic area.
- Produce a list of high-priority monitoring needs to be addressed over the next five years.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Solicit and evaluate input from knowledgeable individuals on critical information gaps that prevent effective NML conservation in Maryland.
- Distribute priority research needs to all interested parties on a regular basis.
- Identify, distribute, and help secure funding sources for NML research proposals.
- Serve as an information resource for past and current research on NML species that occur in Maryland.
- Incorporate results of the above research into habitat management recommendations for NML's.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Define classes of habitat types for NML's in Maryland.
- Identify and assess existing data, including maps and databases.
- Assess patterns and trends in habitats.
- Prioritize habitats for management.
- Develop and distribute maps of priority habitats in Maryland to appropriate users and incorporate the maps into management documents.
- Produce guidebooks with site and/or project-specific guidelines, as well as regional guidelines.
- Distribute guidelines to public land managers through their organizations, with a request for agency endorsement.
- Improve the effectiveness of legal and incentive opportunities and identify potential disincentives.

MD PIF sets the cornerstone for an effective long term strategic plan to protect and preserve our state NML populations. It remains to be seen whether this plan can be translated into effective action, but if the early efforts can serve as guidelines, there is great hope that this plan will produce very positive results. MOS members should do their best to become informed on the progress of MD PIF and support its very worthy conservation efforts.

For more information on MD PIF, or to have your name put on a mailing list to receive future information, write to Jim McCann, Maryland DNR, P.O. Box 68, Wye Mills, MD 21679, or you may call him at (410) 827-8612. If you would like to assist or volunteer with any of the specific committees, please contact the respective chairperson of those committees.

A Field Guide for the Aviliterati

THE GUEST REVIEWER

by David A. Spector

A review of **Birds in Literature**, by Leonard Lutwack, University Press of Florida, Gainesville 1994.

"And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—nevermore."

Unlike Poe's narrator, birdwatchers are delighted to spend their lives evermore under the shadows of birds, Ravens very much included. Many of us furthermore delight in watching birds as they perch on muses' (pallid Pallas or otherwise) heads. In Leonard Lutwack's **Birds in Literature** we now have an excellent field guide to the identification of the tracks that birds leave as they step with many a flirt and flutter across writers' imaginations.

In a chapter on American bird poetry in **Birds and Men** (Belknap Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1955), Robert Henry Welker dismissed Poe's "The Raven" as not a bird poem. Welker argued that the poem did not qualify because the Raven was used as a symbol of mood rather than as an accurate representative of *Corvus corax*. Lutwack takes a very different approach. Celia Thaxter's Sanderling, John Townsend Trowbridge's Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alexander Wilson's Osprey, and similar works familiar to readers of bird-oriented poems are not mentioned in Lutwack's survey while Poe's Raven is discussed over four pages. Lutwack's concern is with birds as symbols, as tools of writers in the expression of human emotion.

With the bird allusions of approximately a quarter of a thousand authors mentioned, Lutwack's survey is likely to stand as a definitive general work on the role of birds in literature. He develops many themes that are too numerous to list here, but which include the importance of the imagery of bird flight and bird song, the role of birds as representations of human souls and of gods (including, somewhat surprisingly, the modern revival of such images), caged birds as symbols of trapped people, birds as erotic symbols, and birds in literature as reflections of attitudes about nature and conservation. The poetry and fiction covered are primarily from the U.S. and Britain, with a bias toward the last two centuries. The roles of birds in the literature and religions of Classical Greece, Rome, and the ancient Middle East are also mentioned.

A survey such as that which Lutwack has undertaken can never even approach comprehensiveness, and anyone who has attended to the mention of birds in literature will find many favorites omitted. Most readers will also find large portions of English and American literature that are under-represented. From my perspective, major misses include pre-Hardy 19th century English novels and African-American literature (both briefly mentioned, but both possible subjects of chapters or books on bird imagery). Fewer than half of the poets in Peggy Munsterberg's **Penguin Book of Bird Poetry** (Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1984) and fewer than a third of the authors of bird poems in John Burrough's **Songs of Nature** (McClure, Phillips, New York, 1901) are mentioned by Lutwack. My point, of course, is not that Lutwack failed at an impossible task of writing an exhaustive treatise on a vast subject, but that there is material for many more such books. Although each reader will wonder at various omissions and will take issue with some interpretations, he or she will also find fresh authors, works, and perspectives throughout the book.

"Hail to thee, blithe spirit!" Percy Bysshe Shelley addressed a Eurasian Skylark, "Bird thou never wert." But before they were blithe spirits birds were birds. A central question raised by studies such as Lutwack's is whether the natural history of a bird matters. From the perspective of many poets and novelists the answer is clearly no, and Lutwack generally accepts their lack of direct experience with or knowledge of the birds that they use as symbols. In a few places Lutwack cites modern understanding of bird biology, but his citations are few and from relatively outdated or secondary sources.

Lutwack himself makes some ornithological errors in his discussion of the birds used in literature, as when he gives the Blue-winged Teal, a New World species, a place in Finnish mythology. Sometimes Lutwack confounds different phenomena, as, for example, when he seems to equate Thomas Hardy's account of the different pronunciations of the European Blackbird's "pretty dear" vocalization, the different transliterations of the White-throated Sparrow's song, and E. B. White's poetic translation of Roger Tory Peterson's account of "geographic variation" in the song of the Alder Flycatcher. In the first case the differences are in human pronunciation of the same words; in the second case the differences are in the words humans apply to the same song; and in the last case the differences are in the biology of the birds, now known to be two species.

Does it matter? For a poet needing a symbol of familiar domesticity, the distinction between a European and an American Robin might not be relevant. Dark opportunistic rapacity might be equally well represented by any species of vultures, crows, ravens, eagles, cormorants, etc., especially if the author and reader are equally ignorant of the unlikelihood of cormorants eating carrion. Any of the 74 species of swallow are equally ill-suited to represent female genitalia (as was done by at least one author cited by Lutwack), so that knowledge of these species will not help the poet who chooses to use this symbol. On the other hand, an ornithologist who casually confused Ted and Langston Hughes or George and T. S. Eliot would rightly be taken to task.

The publisher, the University Press of Florida, has similarly done a disservice to readers in its treatment of birds. The indexer has done an excellent job of covering almost all of the many references to authors, but about a third of all bird species mentioned and about a half of all bird references are not indexed. The reader seeking to find the references to the many literary uses of cormorants, magpies, rooks, and many other species will find the index useless, and even for birds such as dove and cuckoo listed in the index (lumped together in a difficult to read "birds" heading) the listings are very incomplete. Other than the index, the book is well-produced, and the uncredited dust jacket design is very attractive.

A book's last chapter is often its most controversial, and this book is no exception. In "Literature and the Future of Birds," Lutwack ends his book with a discussion of the ways in which literary uses of birds might reflect or influence societal attitudes about bird conservation. The arguments here are complicated and highly compressed, and thus difficult to follow. This chapter would bear close scrutiny and long discussion; I can only mention a few of the points that I found interesting.

I am not as pessimistic as Lutwack about the future of birds, but I am not as optimistic as he about the role of literature in serving as a voice for conservation. Is "restoring to the animal the significance it once had" really a necessity of our civilization? Perhaps in some ways, but, as with other issues, the "good old days" were mixed. I do not think it would aid us to conflate birds with deities, to sacrifice animals for our absolution, or to carry eagles at the heads of our armies. As an ethologist I am flattered that Lutwack thinks that ecology and ethology are serving "to rehumanize our view of nature," but I also recall Charles Darwin's comment in his autobiography that after a lifetime in science he could no longer enjoy poetry.

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The Guest Reviewer

(continued from page 5, column 2)

Much of the discussion in the last chapter raises perennial issues of the relationship between an artist and the surrounding society. To what extent does a writer reflect attitudes and to what extent does that writer shape them? Although the question is simply put, answers must be complex as this dialectical relationship can not easily be described. I wonder if it would be possible to disentangle the relative effects in changing attitudes about birds a century ago of writers such as Sarah Orne Jewett and Celia Thaxter, of popular natural historians such as John Burroughs and John Muir, of professional biologists such as Elliott Coues and Frank Chapman, of organized movements such as the Audubon societies, or of demographic changes. A research program along these lines would be very difficult, but could yield some useful payoffs for those of us interested in how perception of nature is influenced.

The final chapter presents again the central question of the difficult relationship between bird symbols and real birds. At the start of the chapter Lutwack celebrates the diversity of birds as represented in a few of the poems that mention many species. Such literary celebration of diversity might inform a conservation outlook, but to my view it is undermined by many of the other citations in the book. If any crow, cormorant, or other large dark bird serves interchangeably as a symbol, there is no necessary impetus to preserve the California Condor, one of many such birds. "The owl" is not endangered, but the Northern Spotted Owl is. I think that literature will serve conservation better when it more accurately reflects the processes and diversity of nature.

How should future poets be trained? With meter and mythology that have served past poets so well, but also with field guides and biology, and with those works, such as Lutwack's, that attempt to bridge the gap.

So, if a midnight dreary finds you too weak and weary to go out owling, this volume of literary bird lore, some quaint, some curious, all interesting, should allow you to borrow both surcease of sorrow and intellectual stimulation. Let, then, this book beguile your fancy into smiling, and, having quaffed of Lutwack's views on favorite birds and favorite authors, you may see them differently evermore.

Ed. Note: Our first Guest Reviewer, David Spector, is a member of the Harford Chapter of MOS and is by trade a research biologist specializing in the study of bird song. By his own admission he didn't do well in his humanities courses, but he is widely read and has over the years developed a keen interest in English literature, especially as it relates to birds and birding. He has recently left a position with the Department of Zoological Research at the National Zoo in order to accept a research and teaching position at the University of Massachusetts.

Mini Lecture: Migration & Magnetic Fields

by Joseph M. Lewandowski

We all know the reason why birds migrate South and are aware of the flyways that are utilized by birds to reach their destination. We are also aware of how critical the preservation of habitat is to the survival of bird species along the migratory route and at the wintering grounds of these migratory species. But the question that is still being researched is how do birds navigate to arrive at their wintering grounds?

Two researchers have come up with a hypothesis to explain how birds navigate during migration. Wiltschko and Wiltschko believe that birds utilize a light-sensitive process to detect magnetic fields. This process, called optical pumping, allows the outer electrons of large molecules to become magnetized and serve as magnetoreceptors. The chemical substance called rhodopsin, the light-sensitive pigment of the rod cells in the retina, fits the bill for this magnetoreceptor.

About the same time period that research was underway on magnetoreceptors, three researchers, Walcott, Kirschvink, and Gould, discovered magnetic material in the dura matter covering the brain. While this discovery put a damper on optical pumping research, researchers studying this phenomenon have discovered this unique aspect of magnetoperception in newts and fruit flies.

As in all research, opinion is divided on the subject. Current thinking now supports a dual magnetic field hypothesis. It is believed that birds may have a permanent magnet and a photoreceptive magnet that reinforce each other and assist birds in their migratory flights. While the permanent magnet is set and controlled by the strong magnetic field of the earth or induced magnetic fields, the photoreceptor magnet gets its information from the surroundings and acts as a double check to insure that a true course is retained by the bird during its migratory flight. This may be the reason that birds can fly thousands of miles and end up in their exact wintering grounds year after year after year.

Sanctuary News

(continued from page 6, column 3)

night birds can easily be heard. To stay at either of these sanctuaries you **must make a reservation ahead of time**. For Carey Run, contact Dan Foulk at (301) 689-6587 and for Irish Grove call Shirley Taylor at (410) 546-4717. Every year we have workdays at these two sanctuaries to help maintain the houses and the trails. No overnight fee is charged on workdays and dinner and lunch are provided for our volunteer laborers. The next workday for Irish Grove is Saturday, October 29. Why don't you come out, give us a hand, and have a good time?

Sanctuary Committee Report

by Dotty Mumford

Many of you may not be aware that MOS has a publication called *"A Guide to the Sanctuaries of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc."* The last revision of this publication was done in 1985. There have been many changes since then and the guide is very out of date. I hope to be working on a revision during the coming year and if you have any suggestions for the new booklet, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Currently MOS has nine sanctuaries:
Adventure, Montgomery County, 75 acres
Carey Run, Garrett County, 162 acres
Seymour B. Cooper, Fred. County, 14 acres
Irish Grove, Somerset County, 1,500 acres
Mandares Creek, A. Arundel County, 8 acres
Merango Wood, Talbot County, 50 acres
Mill Creek, Talbot County, 150 acres
Myrtle Simon Pelot, Caroline County, 60 acres
Caroline W. Wilson, Garr. Cty., 85-1/2 acres

Two of our sanctuaries, Carey Run and Irish Grove, have over-night facilities for which a small fee is assessed ($4 per person, per night for MOS members, $6 for non-members). The facilities at both places are rather rustic. Both have kitchens equipped with sink, refrigerator, cooking range, pots and pans, dishes, and cutlery. Persons staying overnight would need to bring their own bedding and linens, as well as food and beverages.

Carey Run is open from May through mid-October and includes an old farm house dating back to 1887. The house has a kitchen, shower, two powder rooms, a living room, and sleeping space upstairs. Presently there are two bunk beds and one twin bed here, along with some empty floor space for sleeping pads that you would have to bring. There is limited space for tent pitching since this area of Garrett County has very little level ground.

Irish Grove is available all year round, but the water is turned off from November 1 to April 1. The house here is also an old farm dwelling, built in the Victorian style with living room, fireplace, dining room, museum room, and several bedrooms. There are two propane heaters on the first floor. Sleeping accommodations include four double beds, two twin beds, bunks, and a couple of cots on the second floor, along with lots of floor space on both floors. There is a nice "two-holer" out back, which we request that you use even when running water is available, due to severe septic system limitations. The ground near the house is level enough for tent pitching, but it can be rather soggy at times.

A stay at either of these sanctuaries can be a real treat. Trails and good birding are available and the nights can be really delightful—it is so peaceful and quiet! One forgets how quiet the nights can be. Owls and other

(continued on page 6, column 2)

Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
1994-1995 Executive Council, Committees, and Chapters

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Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

1994-1995 Executive Council, Committees, and Chapters (cont.)

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1995 Conference Patch & Pin Contest

In recognition of the special nature of the 1995 MOS Conference there will be two design contests this year: one for the conference pin (as usual), and a special contest for a one-time 50th Anniversary Commemorative Patch. The rules for these contests are as follow:

- The design for the conference pin shall include a bird appropriate to the conference site (Emmitsburg) and the phrases "MOS" and "1945-1995."
- The design for the Commemorative Patch shall include a bird symbolic of the State of Maryland and the phrases "Maryland Ornithological Society" and "1945-1995."
- Submissions shall be rendered in color.
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- The artist's name should not appear on the front of the entry.
- Artists may submit up to three designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.
- The deadline for entries is December 31, 1994.
- Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20879-2902.

Guidelines for Both Contests:

- Designs should be clearly depicted, simple, uncluttered, and complete. Bold, simple designs are best. (The pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds won't reduce well. The patch will be approximately four inches, and stitched, not silk-screened or printed. Artists have a little more freedom for design and color with the patch.)
- The manufacturers have limited color palettes; artists should consider birds with "common" colors.
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. Again, there will be more flexibility for the patch design.
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and at least five inches across (but not larger than 9x12 inches).
- The shape of the design doesn't matter; the manufacturers can produce any shape we want.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird.
- The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge.
- Judges consider artistic merit, suitability of the species, and the anticipated attractiveness of the pin or patch.
- The jury's decision is final.
- The winner may be asked to make minor changes in the design before it is sent to the manufacturer.
- The manufacturer may have to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process.
- All artwork will be returned to the artists, except for the winning designs.
- Artists should put the name of the species depicted, as well as their name, address, telephone number, and chapter affiliation, on a separate sheet of paper. They should put only their name on the back of the entry (written small, in one corner). All identification will be covered before judging.
- Call John Malcolm with any questions at (301) 977-5788.

1994 MOS Conference A Success!

by Larry Fry

The 1994 MOS Conference at Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East, on May 20-22, was judged to be a tremendous success by the 400 members and guests who participated. The conference was hosted by the Harford Chapter and chaired by Linda and Paul Bystrak, who spent endless hours coordinating all the activities. Several persons from organizations in Pennsylvania and Delaware also participated.

There were more than 50 field trips and about 190 species of birds seen over the conference weekend. Dave Webb served as the field trip marshall for the conference and sent participants on many forays, both near and far.

The Friday evening program presented by the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center in Newark, Delaware, proved to be very informative. A small mountain of supplies and feed was donated to the Center by conference participants.

Another highlight was a talk and short slide program by Marco Cerezo, Director General of FUNDAECO in Guatemala. The raffle, silent auction, and individual donations provided an additional $3,100, which was given to Mr. Cerezo at the conference.

The torch has now been passed to the Frederick Chapter for the 50th MOS Conference at Mount St. Mary's College on June 24-26, 1995.

Birding on the Wire

by Joe Picard

"When and where were the last reported and/or reliable sightings of IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKERS?" writes Steve from UC Davis, California. Several time zones away, a Biology Ph.D. from Queens University, Ontario responds, "The last sightings have all been in the mountains of eastern Cuba. If memory serves, the last US sightings are getting on for 40 years old. Hope this helps."

A few hours pass and a computer whiz from the Silicon Valley adds to the on-going discussion: "The last reliable sighting of Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the US was 1953 (I may be off by a year) in the Florida Panhandle. The last sightings from the Singer tract (in central Louisiana) are from around 1943. A separate population was reported in eastern Cuba in 1987, but a recent expedition found that particular area logged over and no trace of the birds."

Reading the postings, an academic from the Zoology Department at the University of Toronto contributes to the dialog. "Jerome Jackson of Mississippi State University, who has looked for them in Cuba recently, suggests that in the U.S. Ivory-bills might ... have died off with the last of the old growth southern pine forests (long-leaf, loblolly, slash, etc.), which were logged more quickly and completely than the swamps."

This global conversation was read by potentially thousands of individuals. It was made possible through "rec.birds," a newsgroup of biologists, ornithologists, and wild bird enthusiasts who read and respond to electronic postings on Usenet, a network of news software available on most Internet servers and some computer bulletin board systems around the globe.

The Internet, or "net," as users call it, is the interconnection of a million academic, commercial and government computers throughout the world. It is the largest and most popular of the information superhighways, allowing users to post information and share electronic mail anywhere on the planet - as long as they have a computer, communications software, modem, phone line, and an electronic mail address.

Electronic postings sent to Usenet newsgroups are listed chronologically by number and topic. A small sample of recent postings on rec.birds reflect the diversity of topics available to read and respond to: Peregrine Survey in Texas; Strange Crow Behavior; Feeder Waste in the Compost Pile?; Ivory-billed Woodpecker; Peterson et al's Britain & Europe Guide; and Avian Cholera Outbreak Hits Virginia Waterfowl.

Subscribers can quickly scroll and scan the topics, selecting and reading those that seem interesting, passing over those of less interest. Users can browse the conversations and join in by posting to the entire newsgroup or by directly electronic mailing the author. Interesting dialogs emerge as new topics appear. A recent post titled "Die Starlings Die" created a predictable stir.

Another electronic resource available to birders is the National Birding Hotline Cooperative (NBHC). The goal of NBHC is to use the expanding medium of computer technology combined with the interconnectivity of the Internet to share birding information among North American birders. Although domestic by name, NBHC is available to literally millions of Internet users worldwide.

The NBHC is actually a group of "mirrored" electronic mail lists run from a computer server at Arizona State University. Users subscribe to one of seven lists. Electronic mail files sent to the list are "reflected" back to all subscribers. Some lists are for general birding and bird-related discussions, and others are specifically for posting rare bird announcements (RBAs), sharing telephone hotline message machine numbers, and transmitting hotline transcriptions. Volunteers spend countless hours of time providing valuable scientific information to the hotline lists. The most popular list is called BIRDCHAT, where subscribers discuss all aspects of birding.

For computer system administrators and professional scientists, connected via university or government servers, the Internet is not new. It has been a tool of research and communication for years. What is new is the increasing number of regular backyard birders who are logging on and sharing information all the time. This on-line mix of professional and amateur enthusiasts has created a unique forum which is exciting to explore.

Often birders inquire about birding hot spots and favorite trips. Clubs post seasonal lists discussing new arrivals and departures. Some of the best material is written by beginners excited by seeing new species and unique behavior for the first time. Also interesting are the conservation news releases which are sometimes posted the day before they hit the newspaper.

The biggest challenge to someone using rec.birds or BIRDCHAT (or anything on the net) is the tremendous volume of information they present. Only on-line etiquette and posted guidelines keep some semblance of order. Anyone attempting to read all the messages would soon be overwhelmed, but with a little selective scrolling the world of birding will unfold on your computer screen.

Want to log on to the Internet? You'll need a computer, communications software, modem, and an Internet address. Your local university should have accounts available to all students and faculty. If you're not associated with academia, try one of the commercial on-line servers. Call them and ask them about their Internet and Usenet access and cost per hour. Ask for a manual of network commands. Go to you local bookstore and examine the books written about the Internet. **The Whole Internet User's Guide and Catalog** by Ed Krol, published by O'Reilly and Associates, 1992, is highly recommended.

The Internet and Usenet aren't the only places to electronically share information about birds. There are a number of birding electronic bulletin boards set up throughout the world which offer people a variety of information. Many of the on-line subscription services like Prodigy and CompuServe have birding groups. CompuServe is host to the National Audubon Society's Forum (you will need permission from NAS to access this one).

To reach Usenet's rec.birds follow the instructions from your on-line provider. Every on-line system is different, so get to know your system and what it can access. In fact, Usenet and the Internet can sometimes be accessed directly from subscription services and electronic bulletin boards. Take a little time to learn the commands of your system and the etiquette of the group before taking off haphazardly into cyberspace.

To sign up for BIRDCHAT, send an Internet electronic mail file to the address LISTSERV@arizvm1.ccit.arizona.edu. The first line of the message body becomes a command to the list. Type the words "subscribe", "birdchat", and then "your name". Like this: SUBSCRIBE BIRDCHAT John Doe. Do not add any other words in the message. The list server runs from automated software, and any other words will cause your message to be rejected by the system.

Locally, we are fortunate to have a number of computer-based birding resources. Norm Saunders operates The Osprey's Nest (TON), a computer bulletin board system (BBS) whose participants are birders and amateur naturalists in the Washington DC metro area. TON has been operational for over seven years now and has between 800 and 900 users, with a solid core of about 100 or so who chat about birds and good birding locales. You can reach TON by calling 301-989-9036. The bulletin board answers the phone at 2400/9600 baud and is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Your communication parameters should be set to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity.

Regionally on the Internet there is MARVADEL which is maintained by John Tebbutt of Frederick, MD. MARVADEL is an electronic discussion group for birders of all descriptions in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and surrounding areas. The group concentrates on local birding issues and events, such

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Birding On The Wire

(continued from previous page)

as interesting sightings, advice on local birding hotspots, announcements of local bird club meetings, events and joint birding expeditions. MARVADEL is open to all individuals with a sense of humor and an interest in wild birds in the mid-Atlantic region. To subscribe to MARVADEL, send mail to Marvadel-request@osi.ncsl.nist.gov. In your message just ask John to add you to the mailing list.

On the national front, Jeff Price of the National Biological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, is developing an Internet interface for The National Checklist Project (NCP). The Internet is being used to determine the feasibility of running a high-speed computer-network-based checklist project year-around over all of North America (excluding Hawaii, but including Mexico and Central America). As a pilot project the NCP will attempt to track the rate of migration and weekly location of the migratory 'waves'. The current phase of the project is also being run to identify problems in the methodology, and data entry. Totally based on the voluntary input of birders on the Internet, the project is ambitious with incredible potential. Imagine one day, all birding data on one network? Contact Jeff Price at his North Dakota office at 701- 252-5363 or via e-mail at PriceJ@MAIL.FWS.GOV for more information.

All of this is just the tip of the wired world. As you explore more of the Internet you'll find BIRDEAST, BIRDWEST, BIRDCNTR (NBHC groups), Eurobirdnet, TITNET, Bird Stuff on Gopher and on World Wide Web, and even the Electronic Zoo!

Whether used by the recreational bird watcher or the seasoned professional ornithologist, modern computer networks are emerging as a valuable resource tool. Tailoring this technology to improve communications between birders has tremendous potential. As newsgroups organize and the academic and conservation communities continue to reach out to birding groups, sharing information over the wire will become a more integral part of bird study.

Ornithologists now have the expanding means to improve their networks of bird survey volunteers and to amass statistical data more quickly and easily. This has and will continue to aid individuals dedicated to the conservation of wild bird species and natural habitats.

[Ed. note: Joe Picard is a professional freelance writer from Baltimore and member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. His e-mail address is picard@access.digex.net.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTEREST

MOS Has A New Phone Number!

MOS now has a telephone number: 1-800-823-0050. This is a toll-free call from anywhere in Maryland. Outside of Maryland and within the Baltimore calling area the number is (410) 244-0032. Calls are directed to a telephone "mailbox" with a general message about the Society. Additional messages—such as Board meeting cancellations—will be appended to this message. The Executive Secretary will be checking the "mailbox" regularly and responding to calls or forwarding them as needed. All members should feel free to contact him at this number. Please advertise the number as widely as possible throughout the state so that potential new members can get in touch with MOS quickly and efficiently.

Peregrine Falcon Publication

"Peregrine Falcon Restoration in Maryland" has recently been published by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Free copies are available upon request to Glenn D. Therres, Nongame & Urban Wildlife Program, P.O. Box 68, Main Street, Wye Mills, MD 21679, (410) 827-8612

The Jug Bay Winter Waterbird Census Needs Birders

This coming Fall and Winter birders are once again encouraged to help census waterbirds, raptors, and songbirds using Jug Bay marshes and mud flats on the Patuxent River. This research project is coordinated by naturalists at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Patuxent River Park, and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. The study area covers a two-mile stretch of the river and bordering wetlands. Birders travel in small groups by foot or car to established land-based census points along both sides of the river. Counts take place on Tuesday mornings, either at 7:00 a.m. (October - November and March - April) or at 8:00 a.m. (December - February). Each census takes one to two hours. For further information or to volunteer, contact Chris Swarth of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary at (410) 741-9330.

Eastern Shore Birding Festival Slated for October 8-9

The second annual Eastern Shore Birding Festival will be held this year on October 8 and 9. The festival is a partnership of local, state, and federal governments, along with private businesses and organizations, which has been organized to promote the awareness and stewardship of the Eastern Shore's natural resources and the local economy. A full schedule of tours, activities, exhibits, workshops and children's programs are planned. The festival will be held at the Sunset Beach Inn, just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel toll plaza. For further information and pre-registration materials, write or phone the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Drawer R, Melfa, VA 23410, (804) 787-2460.

Hawkwatch 1994

Hawk watching will begin September 3 at the following local hawkwatch sites: **Snickers Gap**—at the intersection of Rt. 601 and Rt. 7 West, 45 miles southwest from the Capital Beltway, at a large commuter parking lot on the southwest corner of the intersection and at the peak of the gap. For further information contact Kerrie Kirkpatrick, (703) 560-4950. **Washington Monument State Park**—Alt. Rt. 40, 2 mi. east of Boonsboro, MD. At

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Letters to MOS Members

"Conservation Corner" Commentary

Dear Yellowthroat Editor:

In the March 24 issue of the Maryland Conservation Council's **Conservation Report**, there is a brief article by Richard J. Dolesh under the heading "Politicians Bash Volunteers," which is said to be reprinted from your newsletter, **The Maryland Yellowthroat**. Since I am not a member of MOS, I do not see **The Maryland Yellowthroat**, but the item in the **Conservation Report** has prompted me to write the attached comment which I am submitting to your consideration for publication.

By way of identification, I may say that in addition to being the Western Region Vice President of the Maryland Forests Association and its representative to the Management Committee of the Maryland Partners in Flight Working Group, I am also the chairman of the Frederick County Forest Conservancy District Board, a certified Tree Farmer, and a retired federal civil servant. I would add that my statement is an expression of personal opinion and not the official position of the Maryland Forests Association.

In a recent issue of **The Maryland Yellowthroat**, after expressing astonishment that anyone should attack the idea of using volunteers to gather data on private land for the National Biological Survey, Richard J. Dolesh quite justly observes, "Outrage is not appropriate; education, however, is."

With this sentiment I fully agree. This education, however, has to be a two-way street based on mutual respect and understanding. Some of it could start with the education of the would-be educators in understanding the legitimate concerns of the private landowners who in Maryland own 90 percent of the forest. Unfortunately the theme of much environmentalist literature and of many participants at recent public hearings on state forests is that foresters are bad for the forest, that loggers are greedy destroyers of creation, and that farmers are would-be developers waiting to sell their land for an enormous profit. Most of the people expressing these opinions seem to live in cities or the suburbs and experience the joys of the country chiefly on weekends. They need not be concerned that a volunteer for the National Biological Survey might find some alleged potential habitat for an endangered species on the land in which they have invested their capital and labor and from which they derive their living. They need not be concerned that such a finding could make their investment vain.

Survey after survey has in fact shown that many if not most nonindustrial private forest landowners do not hold their land primarily for the production of timber or pulpwood. Many forest landowners take pride in their stewardship of the land. Many would undoubtedly be glad to cooperate with responsible volunteers who had the common courtesy to ask permission before entering their land. Many would be pleased to learn of some special environmental feature on their land and to care for it proudly.

Some years ago, the Maryland Forest Service Project Forester for Frederick County arranged a tour of our Tree Farm by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The first words the leader uttered after getting out of his car were "cerulean warbler." Then he said hello. Despite this brief lapse in etiquette, we were delighted to know he had heard something that excited him, that we had such interesting birds on our land, even if we have neither the ear nor the training to recognize them. (Since then, our ornithologist son has identified 112 different species of birds on our Tree Farm, including 72 of the 126 neotropical migrant landbirds listed by Partners in Flight as breeding in or migrating through Maryland.) I have no difficulty in accepting Mr. Dolesh's contention that those who contribute to the compilation of the Christmas Bird Count or the Breeding Bird Survey are gathering valuable scientific data. Should someone certified by the Maryland Ornithological Society wish to conduct a Christmas Bird Count on our Tree Farm, we would be glad to make the necessary arrangements.

We are leery, however, about letting just any "volunteer" on our land to conduct a biological survey. After listening to and reading much environmentalist rhetoric, I am compelled to wonder in many cases what their agenda really is. After personally experiencing the deliberate falsification of data by a group of environmental activists seeking to push their own agenda, I am compelled to question their dedication to scientific objectivity. If anyone automatically attacks my motives because I own land, I am compelled to question his.

Antagonizing landowners, as so many environmentalists do, is not the way to go about securing their cooperation. While it is no doubt true, as Mr. Dolesh writes, that "Anti-environmental sentiment may be politically correct in some quarters," it is equally true that pro-environmental sentiment is just as politically correct in other quarters. One of the "deeper roots" of what he calls the "gratuitous trashing of biologically literate volunteers" may be the gratuitous trashing of landowners by ideologically motivated self-styled environmentalists. Although Tree Farmers often provide significant environmental benefits to our society at no cost to the public, I have yet to hear an environmentalist use the term Tree Farm in any but a pejorative sense.

It is time to begin lowering the level of mutual recrimination and "bashing". Mr. Dolesh has made a step in that direction by urging his readers to become more aware of the fears that caused these politicians to "lash out" at volunteers. Partners in Flight has made an even greater step forward by enlisting the cooperation of many different interests, including the forest products industry in its efforts to save the neotropical migrants. This is the route we should follow. We must not allow extremists at either end of the spectrum to control the agenda if the nation is to move forward with policies and programs for a rational and just approach to the necessary conservation of our natural and human resources.

Sincerely yours,
John B. Blake, V. Pres. for Western Maryland
Maryland Forests Association
Myersville, MD

FUNDAECO Issues

Dear MOS Director:

We are very grateful for your support in the Project "Compra de Tierra de la Reserva Ecologica Privada en el Cerro San Gil," through your grant of $10,162.

Your contribution will strengthen our efforts in Conservation and Development in Guatemala, and especially in the last remnants of Very Humid Tropical Forest located in the Atlantic Region of the country.

We hope we will continue to count on your valuable support, which will always be well invested.

Sincerely yours,
Luis Morales Ariza
Managing Director, FUNDAECO
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear Friends:

FUNDAECO has presented the Maryland Ornithological Society's check for $3,100.00 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as a challenge so we may release our federal matching funds to the Guatemala Research Training Center project.

As you may know, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation matches private gifts to selected conservation projects with federal matching funds. The Guatemala Research Training Center project is a particularly

(continued at top of next page)

Letters to MOS

(continued from previous page)

worthwhile effort, and we are pleased to join you in supporting it.

On behalf of everyone associated with the Foundation, our thanks for your generous support of this project.

Sincerely,
Peter Stangel, Director
Neotropical Migratory Bird Initiative
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Washington, DC

Thanks also for inviting Eileen and me to have dinner Friday night and for the generous contribution to TSBR&R. We sincerely appreciate what you have done to help promote Tri-State and support its efforts on behalf of wildlife.

Very truly yours,
Patricia K. Robertson
Programs & Exhibits Coordinator
Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.
Newark, Delaware

Several Thank You Notes

Dear Linda & Paul Bystrak:

Thank you very much for inviting Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research to present a program at the annual meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Eileen and I really enjoyed doing the presentation. We're grateful for every opportunity to speak to a large group that has a special interest in Tri-State's work, but to be so enthusiastically received by the MOS membership also made this presentation exciting and great fun for us.

The truckload of supplies donated by MOS members was absolutely flabbergasting. I stayed after the field trip Sunday to sort and tally the donations and a list is included. Everyone at Tri-State was impressed with the "mountain of goodies" and appreciates the generosity of MOS members. Personally, I'm thankful that you were able to bring the donations to the center—with "volunteers" to unload the supplies as well!!! My car wouldn't have held half of it.

Dear Ms. Wheeler:

Thank you and all the members of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. for the 18-volume set of **The Birds of North America** and for the first volume of **Handbook of the Birds of the World**. These exciting publications will be a tremendous resource for this Library. As you know the Enoch Pratt Free Library is the Baltimore City Public Library and the State Library Resource Center. As such, we will be pleased to make these publications available to your members and the general public throughout the State of Maryland.

I enjoyed meeting you and William Newman during our photographic session and learning a little more about Maryland birds. We appreciate your thinking of the Pratt Library for your very generous gifts.

Sincerely,
Carla D. Hayden, Executive Director
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, MD

FOR RENT

3 Bedroom Cottage
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Rowboat, Sailboat
Near Deal Island Wildlife Preserve

Week, Mini-week, Weekend
Call (410) 546-0911

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued from page 11, column 3)

the top of South Mountain take the road 1/2 mile north into the park and follow the marked 1/4-mile trail to the tower. For further information contact Lee Murray at (301) 739-3463. **Rockfish Gap**—Holiday Inn deck at the intersection of I-64 and US 250 at the Blue Ridge Parkway near Waynesboro, VA. For further information contact John Irvine at (703) 432-2335. **Waggoner's Gap**—On Rt. 74, 7 mi. north of Carlisle, PA. Park along the highway, climb the dirt road, and bear left to a rocky outcrop. For further information, contact Kim & Glen Van Fleet at (717) 249-1096. **Kiptopeke Hawk Watch**—At Kiptopeke State Park on Virginia's Eastern Shore just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel. For further information contact Bill Williams at (804) 565-3491 or Dot Silsby at (804) 596-3252.

A Query to MOS Members

In order to provide better service to the Board and to our membership (by providing correct information and routing inquiries to the right people), Will Tress, MOS Executive Secretary, is trying to identify holdings of records, documents, correspondence and other materials that pertain to the Society. If you have such materials, or know someone who does, please let him know at your convenience. In your response please indicate the general nature of the material, the activity or function that generated them, and the dates covered. If a considerable bulk is involved, and you would like to end your stewardship, please indicate approximate size. Please forward all responses on this matter to Will Tress, MOS Executive Secretary, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (410) 433-1058 (evenings).

The Naturalist Center Is Moving

The Naturalist Center, at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History, will close September 4, 1994 and will re-open in larger, brighter, and more conveniently located quarters in February 1995. The new Naturalist Center space will be on the second floor of the museum directly off the main rotunda and will continue to provide public access to over 30,000 museum objects, books and reference material, and scientific equipment. For further information contact Richard Efthim, Manager of the Naturalist Center, at (202) 357-2804.

Eyepiece FOUND

On Thursday July 28 a spotting scope eyepiece was found at the Brown's Bridge Road/Ednor Road crossing of the Patuxent River. It was found in the grassy area on the Howard County side of the river. If you lost this eyepiece, call Norm Saunders at (301) 989-9035, evenings before 9 p.m., and he will see that the two of you are reunited!

(continued from page 16)

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Harry Armistead. Breakfast hosts are Eric and Ginny Graebert. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Saturday, September 24

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rocks State Park. Morning walk at scenic Deer Creek location for migrating hawks and passerines. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Marywood Park'n'Ride, US 1 Bypass and MD 24. Leaders are Randy Robertson, 410-273-9029 and Tom Congersky, 410-676-6489.

Sunday, September 25

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Beverly Triton Beach and South River Farm. Fall migrants, waterfowl, herons. Meet 7 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Jeff Mauck at 410-222-1520.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Don Meritt. Breakfast host Dick Kleen. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, September 26

MEETING. Wicomico. "Bird Listing and Birding Ethics" by Carol Broderick. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Saturday-Sunday, October 1-2

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Cape Charles led by Harry Armistead. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Saturday, October 1

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Huntley Meadows, nearby areas. Virginia Waterfowl, winter birds. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Jerry Cotton at 410-721-5258.

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Izzak Walton League Property, Governors Bridge Road, Bowie. Meet at 8 a.m. Call the leader, Mike Callahan at 301-390-1182 for directions.

Sunday, October 2

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Soldier's Delight. Interesting flora and fall migrants in Baltimore County serpentine barrens. Meet at 6:30 AM at the Park'n'Ride lot, MD 152 and I-95. Half-day; leader is Mark Johnson 410-679-3788.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk at Tilghman led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Pelagic Trip from Oregon Inlet, NC & land birds on Sunday. Boats fill up fast. Make reservations as early as possible. For further information, contact the leaders, Al Haury at 410-757-3523 or Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

Saturday, October 8

FIELD TRIP. Harford. National Zoo in Washington, DC For further details, contact coordinators Joan & Bill McIntosh, 410-734-6517.

Sunday, October 9

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Steve Ford. Breakfast hosts Carolyn Mills and John Snyder. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, October 13

MEETING. Howard. "Loggerhead Shrikes in Maryland" by Laurie MacIvor. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Talbot. "Colonial Waterbirds" by David Brinker. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Bank in Easton.

Friday, October 14

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding in Costa Rica" by Bob Ringler. 8 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

Saturday, October 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, North Tract. Winter residents. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Cecil). Cape May Hawk Watch. Meet at 6:00 AM at the Ames Parking lot, US 40 between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, or at 6:30 AM outside the Elkton Dunkin Donuts, US 40 at the Big Elk Mall. All-day trip; bring lunch. For information, call Gary Griffith, 410-392-4491. Rain date is Sunday, October 16.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Meadowside Nature Center. A trip designed for those new to birding or those new to Montgomery County, to introduce you to one of our local birding hotspots. Participation is limited to 15 - please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, October 16

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Breakfast hosts Jean and Fred Snyder. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, October 20

MEETING. Caroline. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Build It and They Will Come", Barn owl and Kestrel box project by Kerry Fitzpatrick. 7 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Saturday, October 22

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Pelot Sanctuary Cleanup. 9 a.m. For further information, contact Debby Bennett at 410-479-2978.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Norrisville. Morning birdwalk in rural setting of Maranatha Tree Farm in northwest Harford County. Meet at 7:15 AM at Bethel Church, 1/4-mile west of Madonna Road on MD 23. Leader is Dave Webb, 410-569-0107.

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Hawk Watch at Snickers Gap. Meet at 8 a.m. Call the leaders, Bob and Ann Courtemanche at 301- 248-2779 for directions and meeting place.

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Sunday, October 23

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR and Madary's Farm, Dorchester Co. Lunch at Madary's. Waterfowl and winter birds. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Les Coble. Breakfast host Carl and Helen Williams. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, October 24

MEETING. Wicomico. "The Nature Conservancy - National and International Efforts of The Nature Conservancy" by Harry Smith. Special emphasis will be placed on The Nature Conservancy preserves at Nassawango Creek and the Nanticoke River. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Friday, October 28

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. Meet at 7:00 PM at Eden Mill Nature Center, on Eden Mill Road 100 yards west of Fawn Grove Road. Leader is Dave Ziolkowski 410-679-6765.

Saturday-Sunday, October 29-30

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY, Somerset Co. Fall workday, beautiful area and great birding. Make reservation by Oct 22. For further information, contact the leader, Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336.

Sunday, October 30

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Don Meritt. Breakfast hosts Janet Cree and Rosemary Thomson. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Friday, November 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding Guide to the National Forests" by Daphne Gemmill. 8 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold.

MEETING. Harford. Program TBA. 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday, November 5

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point. Combined trip with Howard County Bird Club. Popular trip to a local state park. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Hal Wierenga at 410-757-6290.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Cecil). Bombay Hook. All-day trip for waterfowl, field birds, raptors, and late shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 AM at the Ames parking lot, US 40 between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, or at 6:30 AM outside the Elkton Dunkin Donuts, US 40 at the Big Elk Mall. Bring lunch; scopes advised but not necessary. Leaders are Bill & Joan McIntosh, 410-734-6517.

Sunday, November 6

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, November 10

MEETING. Howard. "Dragonflies" by Richard Orr. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Talbot. "Farewell to Midway" by Claudia Wilds. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Bank in Easton.

Saturday, November 12

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Brookside Nature Center. A trip designed for those new to birding or those new to Montgomery County, to introduce you to one of our local birding hotspots. Participation is limited to 15 - please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, November 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Morning walk for grebes, waterfowl, woodpeckers, and winter passerines. Meet at 8:00 AM at Rock Run Mill. Leader is Les Eastman, 410-734-6969.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, November 17

MEETING. Caroline. "Demonstration and discussion of Wildlife Painting" by Kurt Plinke, local artist. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Birds of Venezuela" by Dr. Donald Messersmith of World Nature Association. 7 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Friday-Sunday, November 18-20

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Chincoteague Weekend. Leaders, Joan and Wally Stephens - 301-423-8230. Reserve by Nov 16. A few overnight accommodations available at "Trails End".

Saturday-Sunday, November 19-20

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Chincoteague NWR, Virginia. Birding for waterfowl and land birds. Wash Flats road open. Meet 7 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Make reservations by Nov 12. For further information and reservations, contact the leaders, Wafi Rains, at 301-261-7825 or Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

Sunday, November 20

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Saturday, November 26

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Stationary field trip at base of Conowingo Dam for Bald and, possibly, Golden Eagles. Watch runs from 9:00 AM until noon. Leader is John Wortman, 410-939-3146.

Monday, November 28

MEETING. Wicomico. "Turkey Talk - The re-establishment of wild turkeys to all counties of Maryland" by Doug Hotton, Wildlife Biologist, Department of Natural Resources. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury.

MOS Calendar
September-November, 1994

Saturday, September 3

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mariner Point Park. Gulls, herons, and fall migrants. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Super Fresh parking lot in Joppatowne Shopping Center, Joppa Farm Road and US 40. Leader is Dave Ziolkowski, 410-679-6765.

Sunday, September 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station. Migrating warblers, shorebirds, swallows. Meet 6:30 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan, at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, September 8

MEETING. Howard. "Raptor ID/Ecology" by Paul Engman 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Talbot. "Developing A Garden for Birds" by Beth Olsen. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Bank in Easton.

Saturday, September 10

ANNUAL FALL POT LUCK PICNIC. Anne Arundel. Meet at 4 p.m. at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Details in newsletter.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Harford. BYO beverage. The picnic starts at 2 p.m., food will be served at 3 p.m., and a short birdwalk follows. Cost is $10 for adults, free for children under 10. Call coordinator Tom Congersky, 410-676-6489, before September 1 for additional information.

Sunday, September 11

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Dick Kleen. Breakfast hostess Margie Baldwin. See her new developing "Garden for Birds." Meet 7 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Thursday, September 15

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Costa Rica" by Bob Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Abundance and Distribution of Sora Rails in Freshwater Tidal Marshes of the Patuxent River" by Nina Kwartin, University of MD graduate student. 7 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information, call 301-627-6074.

Saturday, September 17

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Patuxent River Park Boat Trip. Pontoon boat with Greg Kearns for Sora Rails, etc. Limit: 16 places by reservation only. Make reservations by Sep 10. Meet 7 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Martinak State Park and Camp Mardella. Meet by the Martinak log nature center. For further information, contact the leader, Wilbur Rittenhouse, at 410-364-5731.

Sunday, September 18

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Robert E. Lee Park. Morning trip for fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Park'n'Ride lot, MD 152 and I-95. Leader is Mary Plaine; coordinator is Dave Webb, 410-569-0107.

(continued on page 14)

The copy deadline for the November/December issue of the Yellowthroat is September 25 for chapter activities and October 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for November through January to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other information to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5723

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